LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-61. (Canceled)

62.   (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a plurality of information topics that are available via an online help system for a computer, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of folders that are respectively associated with said plurality of topics, and storing the folders in a memory of the computer;

storing, in a hierarchical arrangement, one or more HTML source files of information for given topics, where each file is stored in the respective folder folders associated with those topics its given topic;

detecting, by the computer, the selection of one of said plurality of folders, said folder being associated with a topic of interest;

searching, by the computer, each of the files at [[a]] the first hierarchical level in the selected folder to identify files of a predetermined type;

examining, by the computer, each of the identified files to locate HTML metatags that pertain to the display of help information;

retrieving, from the computer memory, a stored HTML template file;

merging data associated with the HTML metatags into the HTML template file generating, by said computer, to thereby generate an HTML file containing data associated with each of the located HTML metatags; and

displaying, on a display device, an HTML page in accordance with said generated file to thereby provide a table of contents for the topic of interest associated with the selected folder.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further including the step of filtering the identified files, prior to said examining step, to select files having a predetermined designation.

64.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said predetermined designation is a creator designation.

65.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said predetermined designation is a file extension.

66.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein said predetermined type is a text file.

67.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of generating said HTML file comprises the steps of:

retrieving a stored HTML template file;

duplicating the contents of said template file; and

replacing tokens in said file, that correspond to the located metatags, with the associated data from the metatags that were located in each identified file, during said duplicating step.

68.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein said template file is stored in the selected folder.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein said replacing step comprises creating a separate row in said generated file for the respective data from each identified file.

70.   (Currently Amended) An online help system, comprising:

a memory storing a hierarchy of folders and files, wherein the folders respectively correspond to different topics of information that can be viewed within the help system, and HTML files at the first level of hierarchy within said folders contain metatags associated with data relating to the display of a table of contents for the respective topics to which said folders correspond;

means responsive to the selection of a topic of interest for searching the files in the folder corresponding to said topic to identify files of a predetermined type;

means for examining the identified files to locate said metatags;

means for retrieving a stored HTML template file;

means for ~~generating~~ merging data associated with the metatags into said HTML template file to thereby generate an HTML file containing data associated with the located metatags; and

means for displaying a table of contents for the topic of interest in accordance with said generated file.

71.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 70, further including [[the]] means for filtering the identified files, to select files having a predetermined designation.

72.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein said predetermined designation is a creator designation.

73.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein said predetermined designation is a file extension.

74.   (Currently Amended) The <u>system</u> ~~method~~ of claim 70, wherein said predetermined type is a text file.

75.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 70, ~~wherein said memory further stores an HTML template file, and~~ wherein said ~~generating~~ <u>merging</u> means performs the function of duplicating the contents of said template file, and replacing tokens in said file, that correspond to the located metatags, with the associated data from the metatags that were located in each identified file, during said duplication.

76.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 75 wherein said template file is stored in the folder corresponding to the selected topic.

77.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 75 wherein said generated file comprises a separate row for the respective data from each identified file.